

REMARKS

Applicants request correction of the title of the invention (the title as set forth in the Official Filing Receipt dated August 21, 2001 is in error).

Preliminarily, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority to JP 5862/1999 filed January 12, 1999 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document from the International Bureau.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to list EP 1160275 A and WO 97/05122 on Form PTO-892 (as applied in paragraphs 8 and 9 at page 3 of the Office Action of February 20, 2004). These two references are also listed in modified PTO/SB08 A&B accompanying the Information Disclosure Statement submitted concurrently herewith.

Claims 1 to 18 are canceled, and claims 19 to 33 are presented for the Examiner's consideration. Claim 30 (dry process) is supported by the description at page 15, lines 22-25 and at page 16, lines 1-7 of the specification.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,632,871 to Tanaka et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

U.S. Patent 6,632,871 to Tanaka et al is not prior art under any subsection of § 102. The present application is based on PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/00055 filed January 11, 2000. On the other hand, because the '871 Patent is based on a PCT application filed July 14, 1999 prior to November 29, 2000, the '871 Patent has an offensive § 102(e) prior art date of

January 16, 2001; namely, the date that the § 371(c)(1), (2) and (4) requirements were met.

Thus, U.S. '871 is not available as prior art under § 102(e). The '871 Patent also corresponds to PCT Publication No. WO 00/04084 published January 27, 2000, subsequent to the January 11, 2000 PCT filing date of the present application. Therefore, the PCT publication of U.S. '871 is also not prior art against the present claims under § 102(a).

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1160275 to Tanaka et al (EP '275).

EP '275, corresponding to U.S. '871, was published December 5, 2001 subsequent to the January 11, 2000 PCT filing date in the present application, and therefore also is not available as prior art against the present claims.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. '871 to Tanaka et al, further in view of WO 97/05122 to Hung et al. Hung et al was cited as disclosing fluorinated alkenyltriazines as crosslinking agents for fluoroelastomers. The reason for rejection was that it would have been obvious to use the triazines of Hung et al as alternate crosslinking agents in the composition of U.S. '871 so as to provide substitute raw materials that perform equally as well as peroxides.

Applicants rely on the response above with respect to the rejection over U.S. '871 alone which is not prior art against the present claims under any subsection of §102. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants further comment as follows.

New claims 19 to 33 presented herein for the Examiner's consideration are patentable over the five references cited in the Japanese Office Action for JP 2000-593664 (see Information Disclosure Statement filed April 1, 2004), because there is no teaching as to the specifically claimed sealing member containing the specifically claimed silicon oxide filler for sealing of a semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 19 to 33 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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